

glucosamino-glucans to keep skin supple and the Examiner deems the claimed method to be equivalent to that taught by the reference.

Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection since it is deemed that the previous extracts of *Padina* disclosed in the Synthesis of the Sea publication does not possess the same properties and cannot teach Applicants' invention.

The Synthesis from the Sea publication originates from the company Alban Muller International which is one of the leading French companies providing many raw materials for cosmetics and as indicated in this reference, the purified extract is offered to stimulate the synthesis of glycosamino-glucans (GAGG) which constitutes a bank of water in the dermis and maintains the skin's suppleness, firmness and elasticity. This disclosure has some similarities with U.S. Patent NO. 5,961,981. In contrast thereto, the present application is based on different active ingredients which leads to a different use of the extract of *Padina pavonica*. There is no question of synthesis of glycosamino-glucans. Applicants' extract leads to the differentiation of keratinocytes permitting the substitution of old keratinocytes or even dead ones by young and deeper keratinocytes thereby rejuvenating the skin and this is in no way taught by the prior art cited by the Examiner. Therefore, withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly point out Applicants' patentable contribution and favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

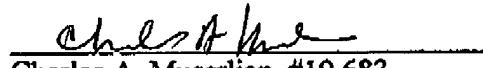
Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures

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I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.



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